

The Dulwich Society

Minutes of the 156th meeting of the Local History Sub-Committee: 9 February 2021, online via Zoom.

Present: Bernard Nurse (Chairman), Ian McInnes, Brian Green, Sharon O'Connor (host), Gavin Bowyer, Steven Hicks, Kenneth Wolfe, Duncan Bowie, Patrick Darby, David Natzler (observer).

Apologies: Pat Reynolds, Alison South

Mark Bryant has resigned from the committee, we thank him for his contribution.

Minutes of the meeting on 6 October 2020 were approved. Declarations of interest: none

- 1. Matters arising:** we provided the Charter School with information on slave owners in Dulwich but have heard nothing back. Sharon will buy the leaflet box for the burial ground pamphlets.
- 2. Journal articles, forthcoming publications, court rolls and research proposed:** Brian will use articles from Ian and Duncan and will hold over Sharon's. Duncan has written on Lord Thurlow and is alternating left- and right-wing politicians. His book on 50 radicals could be published on our website. Duncan talked about the many radicals in Dulwich: late 18th/early 19th C rich politicians, 19th century social reformers, housing and planning campaigners, post-war communists. There could be several walks derived from this work. Patrick is forging ahead with transcribing and translating the court rolls. Brian suggested a further article with the new translations. In due course we will be able to add the original images, Latin transcriptions and English translations to our website. Calista will ask a new photographer about photographing various other monuments. Ian will add the Presbyterian, ED Grove and Methodist churches to his research. Gavin is carrying out further research on Friern Manor.
- 3. Enquiries received and Twitter responses:** Camden House (Dulwich Village) enquiry. Park Hall shops. Railway hotel (Cherry Tree pub). Women working for the RAF in 1944. War damage to the Alleyn Park bridge. Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps nurse and stretcher bearer. We have 2,009 Twitter followers and our tweets on Black History month were well received.
- 4. Local list of historic buildings, monuments and boundary markers:** Southwark are updating. Ian has an old list but most important Dulwich buildings are statutorily listed anyway, though East and West Dulwich are lacking. Ian will join a meeting on 16 February to discuss and Bernard will send his work in progress on boundary markers to Ian as 15-20 have been identified but only 3 are on the list.
- 5. Listening posts, Alleyn's statue:** No news at present, as statue inaccessible. Brian will pursue obtaining a text and narrator.
- 6. Postal cart:** it is suffering from the weather and needs some restoration and a new (temporary?) indoor home. Gavin will clean it while Kenneth will investigate a new home and research a conservator to clean and repair it. A trader on the Park Hall estate could make a Perspex box to protect it, if it is placed outside the Alleyn Park sorting office. The Postal Museum is another option if they will take it as a loan.
- 7. Zoom talks:** Our new series, *On the Street Where You Live*, on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm is going well. Bell House administers for us but there have been some technical issues. We charge £5 with proceeds to charity. The first talk on Court Lane sold 102 tickets, raising £500 for the Bell House wildlife pond, the second on Woodwarde Rd sold 169 tickets, raising over £800 for St Christopher's Hospice. Duncan will give the next talk on Dulwich Radicals and Gavin the following on the Friern Manor estate and has enough material for a follow-up talk. Other subjects could be the origin of street names, the development of Dulwich, the Springfield estate and WW2; other Society groups could also contribute. Separately, Brian is speaking to Dulwich College pupils on 12 February, Ian to the U3A on 10 February. Brian will speak on Dulwich Nazis in April and also at the Dulwich Festival.

8. **Lost houses of Dulwich:** Ian is working on Howlett's Mead and we have additional detail on houses already researched.
9. **Stretcher railings:** we will get a sign made and fix it ourselves. Ian will check a location.
10. **AGM 24 May: election of Chair, nomination papers to be signed:** Bernard will continue for another year but would then like to retire. Ian will propose, Sharon will second.
11. **Any other business:** Patrick is working on a history of the OA Lodge. Nominations for blue plaques for Dulwich residents will be a future agenda item. Southwark Heritage Association, which administers Southwark plaques, does not always consider the south of the borough.
12. **Next meeting:** 1 June 2021.